

# School Transit Subsidy

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Description	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Approved	FY 2005 Proposed	% Change from FY 2004
Operating Budget	\$3,803,000	\$3,650,000	\$4,670,000	27.9

The purpose of the School Transit Subsidy is to provide funding, policy recommendations, and coordination services to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), to provide the District of Columbia's school students with an efficient, affordable, and diverse means of travel.

The School Transit Subsidy is a dynamic program due to ridership changes resulting from shifting school enrollment, temporary and permanent school closings, the creation of charter schools, and changes in transit fares and fare media.

D.C. Law 2-152, the "School Transit Subsidy Act of 1978" as amended by D.C. Law 4-33, the "School Transit Fare Act of 1981" and D.C. Law 11-52, the "Omnibus Budget Support Act of 1995", authorizes the payment of a subsidy, under the direction of the District Department of Transportation's Mass Transit Office, for the transportation of District students to and from school and related educational activities.

- The legislation prescribing the eligibility requires that students must reside in the District of Columbia; be under 19 years of age except for students with disabilities for whom reduced fares shall be available through the end of the semester when the students reach 22 years of age; be enrolled in a public, private or parochial school in the

District of Columbia; and use Metrobus/or Metrorail for travel to and from school and related educational activities in the District.

## Gross Funds

The proposed budget is \$4,670,000, representing a change of 27.9 percent over the FY 2004 approved budget of \$3,650,000. There are no District FTEs for this agency, unchanged from FY 2004.

## General Funds

**Local Funds:** The proposed budget is \$4,670,000, representing a change of 27.9 percent over the FY 2004 approved budget of \$3,650,000. There are no District FTEs for this agency, unchanged from FY 2004.

The change from the FY 2004 approved budget is:

- An increase of \$1,020,000 reflects the projected increased cost of the program due to increased transit system costs and the impact of a projected 10 percent increase in student ridership (DCPS and charter schools).

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## Funding by Source

Table KD0-1 shows the sources of funding by fund type for the School Transit Subsidy.

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Table KD0-1

### FY 2005 Proposed Operating Budget, by Revenue Type

(dollars in thousands)

Appropriated Fund	Actual FY 2002	Actual FY 2003	Approved FY 2004	Proposed FY 2005	Change from FY 2004	Percent Change
Local Fund	2,894	3,803	3,650	4,670	1,020	27.9
<b>Total for General Fund</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>3,803</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>4,670</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>27.9</b>
<b>Gross Funds</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>3,803</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>4,670</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>27.9</b>

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## Expenditures by Comptroller Source Group

Table KD0-2 shows the FY 2005 proposed budget for the agency at the Comptroller Source Group level (Object Class level).

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Table KD0-2

### FY 2005 Proposed Operating Budget, by Comptroller Source Group

(dollars in thousands)

Comptroller Source Group	Actual FY 2002	Actual FY 2003	Approved FY 2004	Proposed FY 2005	Change from FY 2004	Percent Change
20 Supplies and Materials	0	0	2	5	3	150.0
41 Contractual Services - Other	850	159	117	145	28	23.9
50 Subsidies And Transfers	2,044	3,644	3,501	4,470	969	27.7
70 Equipment & Equipment Rental	0	0	30	50	20	66.7
<b>Subtotal Nonpersonal Services (NPS)</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>3,803</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>4,670</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>27.9</b>
<b>Total Proposed Operating Budget</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>3,803</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>4,670</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>27.9</b>

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## Programs

The Mass Transit Division, D.C. Department of Transportation, manages this program in conjunction with WMATA and the D.C. Public Schools.

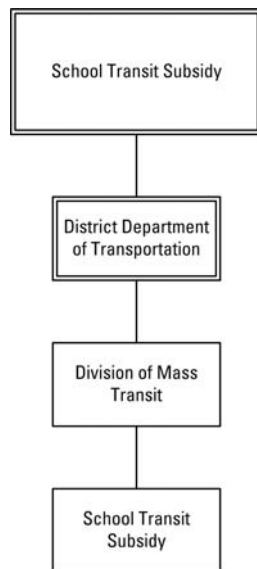
The Mass Transit Division:

- Certifies the eligibility of students to travel on Metrobus and Metrorail;
- Distributes applications for bus tokens;
- Issues student cards to permit subsidized Metrorail travel;
- Administers special programs for student travel during summer and on weekends;
- Verifies monthly student ridership; and

- Processes the quarterly subsidy payments to WMATA.

In January 2001, at the request of the District of Columbia, in an effort to simplify transit fare payment by students in the city, WMATA implemented a monthly SmartStudent pass program. Passes can be purchased at Metro sales offices and select schools in the District. The pass is valid for a month of unlimited travel on Metrobus and Metrorail in the District at a cost that is currently \$22 to eligible students. As with other student fare media, the subsidized portion of the total cost of this pass is funded through the District's School Transit Subsidy Program. WMATA is

Figure KD0-1

**School Transit Subsidy**

reimbursed \$22 for each pass sold, for a total of \$44 received by the Transit Authority. The total cost of the SmartStudent pass increased \$4 per pass in July 2003.

Since the passes are also accepted on Metrorail, WMATA is also reimbursed the difference between the full regular fare for the student trips (estimated at \$1.55 on weekdays) and the base fare (\$1.20), or 35 cents for all student trips made each month using the student pass.

Currently, about 8,000 to 9,000 passes are sold each month during the school year. Total subsidized student ridership in FY 2003 was 6.5 million trips, an increase of 4.8 percent over the 6.2 million trips in FY 2002, due primarily to use of the SmartStudent pass. School transit ridership is expected to increase at a rate of five percent annually in FY 2004 and FY 2005, as the SmartStudent pass reaches maximum market penetration.

## Agency Goals and Performance Measures

### Program 1: To provide subsidized Metrobus and Metrorail ridership to eligible District

*Citywide Strategic Priority Area(s):* Strengthening Children, Youth, Families, and Elders;

Building Safer Neighborhoods

*Manager(s):* Douglas Stallworth, Transportation Planner

*Supervisor(s):* Alex Eckmann, Administrator

#### Measure 1.1: Number of rail cards issued (thousands)

	2002	Fiscal Year 2003	2004	2005	2006
Target	13	13	13	13	13
Actual	13.1	13	-	-	-

#### Measure 1.2: Number of token books issued (thousands)

	2002	Fiscal Year 2003	2004	2005	2006
Target	12	12	12	12	12
Actual	11.2	11	-	-	-

#### Measure 1.3: Monthly school ridership on Metrobus (thousands)

	2002	Fiscal Year 2003	2004	2005	2006
Target	310	310	390	380	400
Actual	308	378	-	-	-

Note: DDOT has revised its FY 2005 target from 400,000 to 380,000 based on FY 2003 actual data (2/25/04).

#### Measure 1.4: Monthly school ridership on Metrorail (thousands)

	2002	Fiscal Year 2003	2004	2005	2006
Target	107	107	180	180	190
Actual	106.7	170	-	-	-

Note: DDOT has revised its FY 2005 target from 190,000 to 180,000 based on FY 2003 actual data (2/25/04).

